

LASALLE/PUTNAM COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION
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Open Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2019

Time: 9:02 a.m.

Location: Circuit Breaker School, Peru, Illinois

Type of meeting: Regular

Name of person taking the minutes: Colleen Stefan

Name of person presiding: Mr. Brian DeBernardi

Roll call indicated

Members in attendance:

1. Mr. Carl Carlson
2. Mr. Brian DeBernardi
3. Mrs. Kristi Eager (enters meeting at 9:27 a.m.)
4. Mr. Michael Pillion
5. Mr. Chuck Schneider
6. Dr. Kristin School

Members absent: Dr. Jodi Moore

Also present

1. Ms. Mary Jane Chapman, Director
2. Ms. Jayme Salazar, Principal, Circuit Breaker School

Reception of Guests and Visitors & Opportunity for Public Comment

The Board welcomed C.B.S. Principal Salazar. Ms. Salazar reported that the school is currently short staffed, however she is managing this shortfall with substitutes. There is one employee going on FMLA leave but will be returning to CBS after the Christmas holiday. Ms. Salazar also reported that there have been numerous referrals by districts for grades K-12. Although there are some classrooms that have openings, Ms. Salazar announced that there may be a hold placed on accepting new students because of this staffing shortfall.

The STEM program is going very well and the students are enjoying this program. Ms. Salazar informed the board that attendance has been improving, as well as behavioral issues. Ms. Chapman told the board that the school is evaluating the use of EasyCBM and NWEA Map Assessments the school is currently using.

The board thanked Ms. Salazar for her presentation.

Approval of Items on Consent Agenda (Open Session Minutes from the board meeting held on October 1, 2019; September 2019 Bank Reconciliation; Bills, Financial Report and the C.B.S. Activity Fund Report and the destruction of the tape recorded closed sessions minutes from April 10, 2018.

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman told the board that an additional bill list can be found in their blue folders.

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

Motion: To approve the open session minutes from the Oct. 1, 2019, meeting, the September 2019 bank reconciliation, bills, financial report and the destruction of the taped recorded minutes from the April 10, 2018 meeting.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Carlson

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Pillion, Carlson, DeBernardi, Schneider and School.
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Remaining Agenda Items

Agenda item: Approve the renewal of Employee health benefits effective 1/1/2020.

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman presented the health and dental insurance renewal rates along with a recommendation to offer additional insurance options to staff. Ms. Chapman stated that she wanted to offer more options to employees. Employee contributions will increase with the exception of employee single coverage which will remain at 5% of the premium.

Motion made by: Dr. School

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the renewal of Employee health benefits effective 1/1/2020.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Pillion

Roll Call: "Yeas" – School, Pillion, Carlson, DeBernardi and Schneider
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Agenda Item: Approve the resignation of staff.

Summary of discussion: Ms. Chapman explained that a Letter of Resignation was received from Laura Stevens. Ms. Stevens was an aide at the Circuit Breaker School. Ms. Chapman noted that although no replacement for her position has been hired at this time, there are applicants interested in the position.

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: to approve the resignation of Laura Stevens.

Motion seconded by: Mr. Carlson

Roll Call: "Yeas" – Schneider, Carlson, DeBernardi, Pillion and School
"Nays" – none.

Action: Passed

Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

Date: November 5, 2019

Time: 9:22 a.m.

Location: L.E.A.S.E. Office Board Room

Motion made by: Mr. Pillion

And seconded by: Dr. School

To adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Alliance or legal counsel for the Alliance, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or against legal counsel for the Alliance to determine its validity.

Voice Vote: “Yeas” – all

“Nays” – none.

Actions: Passed

Time of adjournment of closed meeting and return to open meeting: 9:51 a.m.

Motion to Return to Open Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Pillion

Motion: To return to Open Meeting

And seconded by Mrs. Eager

Voice vote “Yeas” – all

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Approve FMLA leave for staff

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Mr. Schneider

Motion: Adopt resolution granting FMLA to Holly Faletti

WHEREAS Holly Faletti, Speech/Language Pathologist, has requested paid leave time and “Family Medical Leave Act” unpaid leave time for an anticipated absence associated with the birth of a child, and . . .

WHEREAS L.E.A.S.E. policy and the “Family Medical Leave Act” allows for the use of both paid leave and unpaid leave for an absence associated with childbirth, therefore be it . . .

RESOLVED: to approve Holly Faletti’s request for the use of up to 30 days of paid leave time (as available) and up to 30 days of unpaid “Family Medical Leave Act” time associated with the anticipated birth of a child, with no change in daily work hours, to begin on or around April 22, 2019.

Seconded by: Dr. School

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Schneider, School, Carlson, DeBernardi, Eager and Pillion

“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Approve Retirement request for Kathryn Caputo

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session

Motion made by: Mrs. Eager

Motion: to approve the retirement request for Kathryn Caputo

Seconded by: Mr. Schneider

Roll Call: “Yeas” – Eager, Schneider, Carlson, DeBernardi, Pillion, and School
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Anticipated Action Items After Closed Session

Approve Retirement request for Mark Sweet

Summary of discussion: As discussed in Closed Session.

The board will act on this item at the December 3, 2019 board meeting

Information Items

Discuss the preliminary implications of the data received relative to the “Cooperative Status/Needs Assessment Report” used to determine the overall priority needs of the Cooperative.

Ms. Chapman reported that she will share data gathered from district employees regarding professional development needs and program needs. All districts have completed this information. A full update on this report will be presented at the December 2019 board meeting. Ms. Chapman noted that she did change the format of the district survey somewhat to simplify the process.

IAASE Conference

Ms. Chapman told the board that she and all L.E.A.S.E. coordinators had attended the IAASE conference in mid-October. While there, she learned that ISBE plans to change Excess Cost reporting so that districts will file reports through IWAS. When Ms. Chapman gets confirmation of the process, she will share the information with all districts. If districts would like assistance from Ms. Chapman, she will need to have district level access in IWAS as a “read only” participant.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Halloween night

Ms. Chapman shared with the board members that coordinator Kathy Fox organized a DHH Family Night at the L.E.A.S.E. office. Students participated in “Trunk and Treat”, dinner was provided and author Lynne Kelly shared her book “Song for a Whale”, about a deaf girl helping a whale whose song can’t be heard by his species. Each student received a copy of the book. L.E.A.S.E. audiologist Julie Kirkpatrick helped with supervision during the event.

Approval of Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Pillion

Motion seconded by Dr. School

Voice Vote: “Yeas” – all
“Nays” – none.

Action: Passed

Time of adjournment: 10:22 a.m.

Post Meeting Action

Date minutes approved: Dec. 3, 2019

Date minutes were available for public inspection: Dec. 3, 2019

Date minutes were posted on Alliance website: Dec. 3, 2019